

The Honorable Lloyd Doggett
Capital Area Branch - 2011 Public Elected Official Award Winner
One-Page Summary

Congressman Lloyd Doggett has been in the Texas news quite a bit this year – he’s the congressional Democrat who had the very public standoff with Governor Perry over federal funding for education.

Congressman Doggett believes that when the US Congress designates federal funding for use by the states for a specific purpose, it should be used only for that purpose. He took offense when the Texas Legislature chose to use education stimulus funding to balance other portions of the Texas budget. This was a tough political fight, but not one that Congressman Doggett was afraid to take on.

He’s also recently publicly taken on another risky political fight. Congressman Doggett is using his seniority on the House Ways and Means committee to speak out against corporate tax loopholes.

Congressman Doggett isn’t just trying to be a political ideologue. He’s taking on these challenges because it’s the right thing to do for the people. He sees the long-term value in public education, and he’s not afraid to fight to make sure Texas is investing in something of such importance. He believes taxes should be fair and equitable, which isn’t happening when corporations move their headquarters address overseas without actually moving any CEO-level operations.

The public wins when elected officials tackle difficult political challenges head-on. Luckily for social workers – and especially those in Central Texas’ 25th Congressional District – Lloyd Doggett takes fighting for what is right for all people very seriously.

Resume

http://doggett.house.gov/index.php?option=com_content&view=frontpage&Itemid=1

Letter of Support #1

March 9, 2011

Nominations Committee
NASW/Texas Chapter
810 West 11th St.
Austin, TX 78701

Mary D. Bishop, LMSW
137 Lakeside Dr.
Bastrop TX 78602

Dear Nominations Committee,

This letter serves as my letter of recommendation and support for Congressman Lloyd Doggett as NASW/TX Elected Official of the Year. Congressman Lloyd Doggett has taken on the fight and plight of social workers not only within his Congressional District, but has extended his Congressional Boundaries nationwide. His efforts are felt by all Americans, from children in Texas schools, college students who are eligible for Federal Student Supports such as the PERKINS Loan Program, to seniors fighting the donut hole caused by Medicare Part D and all who benefit from National Health Care Reform.

Congressman Doggett possesses the ware with all to see how payroll tax cuts are a threat to Social Security.

He has fought to protect Legal Aid, as funding streams that assist the disadvantaged with the provision of Legal Council, are being targeted for elimination after decades of funding in all 50 states. This service includes veterans who honorably served, domestic violence victims, and persons with disabilities.

My Congressman believes there needs to be a stop to putting insurance companies first, as he fights hard for our National Health Care Plan that has already extended parents' health care coverage for Americans until the age of 26 and eliminated insurances ability to exempt those with a pre-existing condition from their coverage. He sees the need to **not** allow insurance companies to come between you and your doctor! My Congressman worked hard to assure that those on Medicare are provided free mammograms, bone mass and colorectal screenings! He is fighting to prevent the repeal of the Medicare Agreement that would pay primary care physicians more money through a privatization voucher system that will increase costs to seniors and increase their prescription costs for over 3 million people to include those with intellectual and physical disabilities!! Congressman Doggett has remained committed to Community Health Care!

The reduction of or elimination of the PERKINS Loan Program is seen by Congressman Doggett as downsizing to employers, when Federal loan programs are seen as the "sparkplug" of economics job growth and development. He has advocated for the need for government to not take this "step backwards."

In Governor Perry's State of State Address, he targeted my Congressman 3 times!!! As Congressman Doggett strongly believes that in these tough economic times, when there is a tug for votes, that are criticized by every Republican as to much federal spending, at least the funding should go to the purpose that Congress voted for, such as public schools! Governor Perry refused 830 million dollars in Federal Aid to education, yet used 3.2 billion dollars of the stimulus dollars for schools to plug other holes in the budget, yet said stimulus dollars was for our children. My Congressman introduced and won the bipartisan support for the Law to prevent this from reoccurring. Governor Perry has a choice; he can obtain funding for Texas Schools, simply by completing the 3 page application and obtain the support of the Texas Legislature and obtain the funds that will provide additional assistance to schools across Texas, not in place of the current budget funds or **NOT!**

My Congressman has been recognized by the Texas Famers Union in their awarding him the 2010 "White Hat Award." Austin Chronicle Readers named him "Best Elected Official for 2010!" His "remaining a firm voice for health care and education on Capital Hill" in the past Austin had named him "Best Unsung Hero." My Congressman continues to make all levels of Government more accessible as he can be found throughout Congressional District 25 at various community events!

Please consider Congressman Lloyd Doggett, as the Elected Official of the Year!

Thank you,

Mary D. Bishop, LMSW

Letter of support #2

March 28, 2011

Nominations Committee
NASW/Texas Chapter
810 West 11th. St.
Austin, TX 78701

Jeanne Stamp
1804 A Jentsch Court
Austin, TX 78745

Dear Nominations Committee,

I am writing to recommend Congressman Lloyd Doggett as NASW/TX Elected Official of the Year. Congressman Doggett is an exceptionally brave voice for equity and social justice for Texans as well as the citizens of this nation. He has faced harassment from Tea Party hecklers, and pointed attacks by Texas' Governor and Republican legislators. Despite being a sometimes-lone bit of blue in an otherwise mostly red state, Congressman Doggett has not shied away from standing up for the poor, needy, elderly, and children of Texas. He has for years supported those causes near and dear to the hearts of Texas' Social Workers. We know that in Congressman Doggett we have a true champion for the people and a strong knowledgeable voice for social justice. Despite continual tinkering with and redrawing of congressional districts in Texas, Congressman Doggett has prevailed, and continued his service to all Texans regardless of their district.

This letter would resemble a book if I were to address each and every issue for which Congressman Doggett has been an advocate in his illustrious career. So, I will choose one that is a timely and an on-going issue for Texas with its current budget woes. That issue is educating our children. Congressman Doggett has long fought for Texas to use its federal education dollars to supplement the state education budget rather than to supplant those state funds, as it did in 2009 with education stimulus funds that were diverted to fill other budget gaps. When Texas uses its state education dollars in other areas that means less quality of education for our children. Congressman Doggett has attempted in many ways to change this state activity. His latest effort is a "maintenance of effort" clause attached to a current \$10 billion education fund designed to maintain and hire highly qualified teachers. When Texas uses this money to free up current state education dollars to divert elsewhere, that does not add up to quality education for our children; it simply maintains the woeful status quo. In this effort, Congressman Doggett gets support from former first lady Barbara Bush, who this month, in the Houston Chronicle published an opinion piece titled "We Can't Afford to Cut Education," in which Mrs. Bush pointed out that students in Texas currently rank 47th in the nation in literacy, 49th in verbal SAT scores and 46th in math scores. "In light of these statistics, can we afford to cut the number of teachers, increase class sizes, eliminate scholarships for underprivileged students and close several community colleges?" she asked. From a recent New York Times Article, (in which Congressman Doggett was quoted), addressing Texas' woeful education budget: "Nobody wants to see underperforming, overcrowded schools being deprived of more resources anywhere. But when it happens in Texas, it's a national crisis. The birth rate there is the highest in the country, and if it continues that way, Texas will be educating about a tenth of the future

population. It ranks third in teen pregnancies — always the children most likely to be in need of extra help. And it is No. 1 in repeat teen pregnancies.” Congressman Doggett is working to be sure that federal dollars intended for Texas schools actually are used to enhance Texas children’s education.

Congressman Doggett seems to be a social worker at heart. He has long taken on the social justice issues that social workers struggle with daily in assisting their clients to achieve their potential, and enjoy as high a quality of life as possible. Congressman Doggett has not only taken on educational issues in Texas’ public schools, but for college students who are eligible for Federal Student Supports such as the PERKINS Loan Program. Congressman Doggett has taken on issues of health care reform, maintenance of Medicare and Social Security, veteran’s affairs issues, threatened cuts to legal aid, insurance company inequities, and the inequities of tax laws for large corporations, despite, and possibly because of, intense opposition from those with less concern about Texas’ and our nation’s neediest citizens.

Congressman Doggett has received many awards and recognitions in a long and illustrious career, not the least of which is the recognition by the Texas Farmers Union that awarded him the 2010 “White Hat Award.” Austin Chronicle Readers named him “Best Elected Official for 2010!” Austin has named him “Best Unsung Hero” for his efforts on health care reform. Congressman Doggett is accessible, to his constituents in Congressional District 25 through his attendance at community events, planned town-hall type meetings, and responsive to phone and electronic communication. He actually cares about what people think, need and say! Congressman Doggett truly believes in representing his constituents by understanding their needs and wishes.

Please consider Congressman Lloyd Doggett, as the Elected Official of the Year!

Sincerely,

Jeanne Stamp, LCSW, LMFT, LCDC
NASWTX Board Region 7 Director

Letter of Support #3

From: Leslie Weston
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Austin, TX 78739
leslie_hays@yahoo.com
(512) 441-1989

Dear Nominations Committee,

It is my pleasure to send this letter of support for Congressman Lloyd Doggett for consideration as NASW/Texas' statewide Public Elected Official of the Year Award. I believe he would be an excellent choice for this award.

Congressman Doggett has represented Central Texas in Congress since 1995. Prior to his election to the United States Congress, Doggett served the citizens of Texas as a Texas State Senator and a Texas Supreme Court Justice. This is not a politician who is in it for himself – public service and love for Texas is in this man's blood!

While I have been a fan of Congressman Doggett since I moved to Austin, in recent years I have gotten to know Congressman Doggett as his constituent. He and his staff have been very helpful when I've had questions, wanted to set up visits in D.C., or when I've wanted to voice my support or opposition to current legislation. In addition, I've gotten to know Congressman Doggett as he has been a regular visitor and speaker in my neighborhood political club. While I live in an area of Austin considered quite conservative, Congressman Doggett doesn't ignore his constituents there. He regularly attends meetings and events in my neighborhood. I appreciate being represented by a member of congress who is so active in the community and makes the efforts to get out and get to know the community. I don't think everyone is so lucky.

Congressman Doggett is a dedicated public servant who takes on thorny issues on behalf of his constituents and all Texans. He serves on the House Budget and House Ways and Means Committees. He supports funding for education and regularly fights to protect social security. As a member of the Seniors Task Force, Congressman Doggett works to ensure that seniors' issues remain at the forefront in Congress. This is especially important as the baby boomers continue to age – and the political winds seem to be blowing in a direction that could cause great harm to our safety net for this aging population.

I believe Congressman Doggett work represents shows clear support for social workers values and ethics but don't take my word for it. The NASW grassroots advocacy website gives Congressman Doggett a perfect 10 on his key votes supporting issues social workers care about.

I strongly urge you to select Congressman Doggett as the Texas Public Elected Official of the Year.

Thank you for your consideration.

Leslie Weston

